

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No 4432

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日三十

年未辛治同

HONGKONG, MONDAY, 22ND JANUARY, 1872.

拜得 號二十二月正英 港香

[PRICE \$2 PER MONTH.]

Arrivals.

Banks.	
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION. SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL \$5,000,000 of Dollars.	
Court of Directors:	
Chairman—Hon. R. HOWITT.	
Deputy Chairman—T. PYKE, Esq.	
John Monk, Esq.	
G. F. Waller, Esq.	
W. Leng, Esq.	
H. Malbone, Esq.	
Managers:	
Hongkong—James Greig, Esq., Chief Manager.	
Shanghai—David McLean, Esq.	
London Bankers—London and County Bank.	
HONGKONG. INTEREST ALLOWED.	
On Current Deposit Accounts at the rate of 1 per cent, per annum on the daily balance.	
On Fixed Deposits:	
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The Chronicle and Directory for 1872.

NOW READY.

THIS Work, now in the TENTH year of its existence, is ready for delivery. It has been compiled and printed at the Daily Press Office, as usual, from the best and most recent sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the "CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR 1872" will be further augmented by the addition of a Chromo-lithograph plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE AT THE SEAS:

THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS
(Designed expressly for this Work);
MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN,
and the

THE COAST OF CHINA:
Besides other valuable information and statistics connected with the navigation, tending to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Officers.

The Directory will be published in Two Forms, Complete at \$5; or with the Lists of Residents, Port Directories, Maps, &c., at \$3.

Orders for Copies may be sent to the Daily Press Office, or to the following Agents:

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The delivery of the Daily Press from this office will commence on Saturday morning at 10.10, and the messengers left the office at 10.30.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JANUARY 22ND, 1872.

REVERTING to the consideration of Sir Rutherford Alcock's evidence upon the Opium question, we have now to notice the nature of the facts upon which his general conclusions were founded. It has already been shown that the views which he deduced from those conclusions were inconsistent in themselves, and did not warrant the fine of action which he adopted in his negotiations, and it will also be apparent that the actual facts are by Sir Rutherford's own admission insufficient to lead in any way to the generalisation which he made the ground work of his action.

Three points are set forth in a perfectly clear light, which it may be fairly considered place Sir Rutherford Alcock entirely in the wrong, first, that we are not responsible for the Opium traffic in China; secondly, that the foreign trade in the Drug is not sufficiently extended to work any very extensive injury; and, lastly, that the injuriousness of Opium has been very greatly exaggerated.

With regard to the first point, it is somewhat surprising to find that the British Minister for the first time awakens to the fact that the consumption of Opium in China dates back to a period far anterior to that at which Europeans had intercourse with the country, only in consequence of some remarks made by Mr. Hosson, Acting Commissioner of Customs at Hankow, which go to show that there is a native book which proves that Opium was consumed in China a hundred and thirty years ago. The fact is, there is abundant testimony to prove that as far back as can be remembered Opium has been brought into China from India, and to the present day, is brought across the borders into Yunnan by the old route. The Opium cry was simply raised as that most likely to be believed against foreigners, just as the Missionary cry is being raised at the present time. A feeling has always existed in China against Opium, on account of its being abused, just as there is a strong feeling at home about gin and brandy, but it is clear that it would be as impossible and probably as unjustifiable to put down the one as the other. Whether the Chinese Government have made any bona fide effort to do so is not clear; but it is certain that they never have succeeded in preventing the consumption of the Drug, which is a habit predominant from the time of the advent of foreigners but which has, there is every reason to believe, existed for centuries—and is undoubtedly established as being in existence a century before we traded with China.

The next point that is clearly set forth in the evidence is that neither the quantity nor the price of the foreign Opium could produce the wide spread disaster which is attributed to it, even if it were in every way as injurious as it has been represented to be. It is proved by the force of actual figures that not more than three or four millions of people out of the 300 to 400 millions of the inhabitants of China can by any possibility consume foreign Opium except infinitesimally small quantities—not by any means such as to cause injury; and, in fact, that the consumption might be increased "almost ad infinitum"—three, four, or five fold, and still leave the body of the nation unaffected." Sir Rutherford, after all his eloquence concerning the virtuous indignation of the Pekin authorities—indignation so intense that it could not be soothed at a loss figure of £50,000 per annum—admitted that the amount of foreign Opium imported is infinitely short of that required to produce the effects attributed to it; while it is also conclusively shown that the expense of indulging in foreign Opium must preclude the large bulk of the people from doing so.

Lastly, upon the question of the perniciousness of the drug, Sir Rutherford, as already shown, completely softens himself, and is compelled to admit that it is not injurious in moderation; and, finally, that he has always had a conviction that a craving for something of a stimulant or narcotic nature is universal, and that the very fact of this passion for Opium being found to exist so strongly among the Chinese shows that there

is a want for it dependent upon causes which we cannot understand.

These facts, being proved from Sir Rutherford's own testimony, it became very easy work for the Committee to demolish the whole of the theory which he so carefully interpreted upon them at the opening of his evidence. "So that," asks Mr. Grant Duff, "by attempting to effect through legislation any sudden or great change in the Opium regulation in China, we might unwillingly be doing as much harm as good." "Quite so," says Sir Rutherford; "first, it would utterly fail; it must fail, and in the next place all sudden revolutions of that kind must affect capital and industry, and could not fail to be a great evil." And yet though Sir Rutherford admits that a sudden suspension of the traffic would probably do as much harm as good even if possible, he shields himself behind the one word "sudden," and so thinks he saves himself from utter confusion in having set out measures which are proved by his own testimony to be impracticable for the gradual suppression of the trade. The objection, however, suggested by Mr. Grant Duff happens to apply equally to a rapid or a gradual suppression. It is simply that, though Opium consuming may be an evil in excess, it is not so in moderation, and that even if the whole trade could be put down—which it proved could not be accomplished—there is every likelihood that more evil than good would be produced.

Thus, we find that although Sir Rutherford Alcock knew enough to be fully aware of the erroneous nature of the Chinese objections to the traffic, he nevertheless allowed those objections to influence him to the extent of his being willing to give them £50,000 a year duty free to overcome them. The Chinese, on the other hand, showed how little real weight they themselves attached to the moral aspect of the question by allowing their scruples to vanish in sight of the increased revenue. Surely in view of these facts it must be clear that, from beginning to end, the negotiation was simply a bargain—whether we would pay so much duty for so much facility of trade, in comparison with the facility offered for the native drug—and that Sir Rutherford got considerably the worse of the bargain, not so much because he agreed to pay the extra twenty taels duty as because, having agreed to do so, he failed to obtain any guarantee from the Chinese authorities that they would not encourage the growth of the native drug by placing more and more restrictive inland duties upon foreign Opium. If they demanded that we should waive them by collecting the larger duty at the ports, it was surely reasonable to ask in return that they should guarantee that prohibitive duties should not be imposed inland. It was to his failure on this point that the merchants objected more than to the actual extra-duty, and when the subject is divested of the extraneous considerations with which it has been mixed up, and is looked upon in plain business-like light, it surely cannot be held that this objection was either unreasonable or unnecessary.

The Government Council of Saturday announces that Mr. Holmes has been appointed Judge's clerk, vice Mr. W. W. Taylor, resigned.

This evening, the Choral Society will, according to their announcement, give the Concert which was unavoidably postponed from last Monday, in aid of the Chicago sufferers. We make no doubt that they will have a full house.

We understand that the Ordinance for the apprehension of street cries, stone-throwing and other like mischiefs, will be brought forward at the next meeting of the Legislative Council, so that the Colony will be well rid of these terrible inflictions before next season.

We understand that Inspector Gray, who went to England to procure forty men for the Hongkong Police Force, left England on the 22nd ult., and will be home again in the month of January, when he will resume his command, and that the other twelve will be sent him, and will be here by next English mail.

A serious pony accident took place on Saturday. Two gentlemen were driving in a basket-trap along the Praya Wan-chai, at about 5.30 p.m., and when abreast of the Hongkong and Whampoa timber-yard, a dog ran before the pony's head, causing him to rear and to rush off the Praya, head foremost into the sea. A man was seen to jump overboard, and the pony was brought back to land, and was found to be dead.

The Acting Attorney-General said that the pony would have no doubt that a burglar had been committed, and that the stolen goods were in the hands of the prisoners, but he called their attention to the second count than to the first. The prosecutrix was a widow living at Sowkwan. On the night of the 12th Dec. she went to bed, and the door was closed in her chamber, and she heard a noise, and when she awoke found that the door had been forced, and that it was given her no trouble. She then gave her sum of the £10 which she had lost, and pawky pieces which produced marks of the stolen articles.

The defence consisted of a denial of the whole charge.

The prisoner was convicted, and sentenced to two months' hard labour.

THE SOWKWEI CASE.

Two men were indicted for conspiring, among other things, to break and enter a house with intent to commit robbery, and to steal the goods in it.

The Acting Attorney-General stated that the prisoners were indicted for conspiracy at common law. The evidence of the conspiracy itself came on the word of an informed native Wong A-shing, who was a blacksmith recently employed at the new Police Station at Sowkwan. He was examined by Mr. Smith, and he reported the matter to the police, and Inspector Burns examined the door and found marks upon it showing that a burglary had been committed. The woman suspected the prisoner, who keeps a barber's shop in Sowkwan, and she went with a friend to his shop. The friend said in reply to her inquiries that he had got the property from the thief, and that he had sold it to another, and in account with receiving the stolen property knowing it to have been stolen.

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was lost evening delivered at the Polytechnic by Mr. W. T. Bush, who lately returned from the Acad. Professor Popov, president, and the Professors.

The interest in the Tichborne case was very great, and the trial in the High Court was, indeed, greater than upon any occasion since the trial was resumed on the 17th instant. Mr. Baigent was under cross-examination during the whole of the day. He incidentally stated that he was connected with the Tichborne family by marriage, that he had separated from his wife, a lady of property, four or five years after the marriage, and that he had been separated from her ever since. A great deal of what was said was not admissible.

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The Prussian Diet was opened yesterday by the Emperor. His Imperial Majesty commenced his Speech by thanking the people for the trials which they had undergone during the late war, and then went on to declare that "the Diet on the very satisfactory financial condition of the country, and to enumerate the principal measures to be brought forward for its consideration. In reference to the agitation of Church questions, his Majesty said his Government was determined to preserve perfect independence for the State, to maintain the legal independencies of the church, and to protect liberty of conscience of all with the utmost care."

It is stated that the Pope has given up all idea of leaving the Vatican, it having been represented to his Holiness that his presence in Rome may have the effect of hindering the enforcement of the law on religious corporations.

A letter from Mr. John Kirk, M.A., dated at Zanzibar, to the late Sir R. Morrison, was read by the Geographical Society last night. War had broken out between the native tribes and the Arab pirates, who had been making depredations on the road to Ujiji and Kafue, situated in connection with the supposed residence of Dr. Livingstone. There is, however, no actual news of the great explorer.

Mr. Leesley, the new president of the Oxford University Boat Club, forwarded yesterday the challenge to Mr. Goldie, of Cambridge, to row the annual eight-oared race as usual the spring.

Yesterday a man named Dennis Rose, aged 29, who was charged at the Marybone Police-court with attempting to murder a lad named James Wilson, aged ten years. Two lads were playing in a lane when the prisoner came by, and, without provocation, knocked one of them down with a baton which he had in his hand, and afterwards struck the poor little fellow several times. The boy, still in his grasp, was captured with the baton still in his hand. A surgical certificate was put in to the effect that the boy was in a most dangerous condition, and the prisoner was remanded.

(Daily News.)

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the loss of the *Mersey* assembled yesterday in one of the Parliamentary Committee-rooms—Lord Lawrence in the chair. The meeting was a private one, so the course of procedure; but it is understood that regular sittings of the Commissioners, which are to begin in a few days, will be open to the public.

In the action for libel now occupying the Court of Queen's Bench, evidence was yesterday adduced to prove that the anonymous letter upon which the charge is founded was not written by the defendant. Two experts, Mr. Macrae and Jeffries, were afterwards called to give their testimony. Mr. Glabot and Mr. Nathaniel Hartill had sworn to the similarity of the hand with the defendant's handwriting. The case has not yet been brought to a conclusion.

Yesterday's proceedings in the Tichborne case again consisted wholly of the cross-examination of Mr. Baigent at the hands of Mr. Hawkins. The witness complained that the learned counsel had in motion, and Mr. Macrae and Jeffries, were afterwards called to give their testimony. Mr. Glabot and Mr. Nathaniel Hartill had sworn to the similarity of the hand with the defendant's handwriting. The case has not yet been brought to a conclusion.

An action for libel was in the Old Bailey yesterday to recover compensation from the London General Omnibus Company for negligence. The company compromised the claim for £50, but if the plaintiff had received his injuries through getting into the vehicle while in motion, Mr. Justice Hanmer stated that he would not have been entitled to recover damages.

A woman, Mrs. Grimes, the wife of a pensioner, was brought into court yesterday to give evidence of having poisoned her husband. Ten out of her twelve children have died, and it is stated that the deaths of nearly all of these have been attended with symptoms of poisoning.

An alarmist broke out last night at a meeting of workmen at Bootle, near Liverpool, and much damage was done.

The following day, a meeting of political capital in Birmingham, and a number of persons were raised outside the Chamber. The disturbances began in an article upon the declarations that have been made, saying that Belgium is given up to violence, that the Thoms are torturing, and that persons and property are in peril. Such, it explains, is far from being the case. Numerous persons have been hooted, a banner was held up, and a number of stones were thrown at the speakers.

On the 18th, Hongkong, 17th January, 1872.

W. SCHMIDT & CO. have received by late arrival a very fine Assortment of BREWERY APPARATUS, including complete LEATHER AND CANVAS CASES, also complete LOADING APPARATUS for canoes, and LEATHER CARRIAGE BELTS, &c., &c. to 143 Hongkong, 20th January, 1872.

FOR SALE,

L. N. BROWN & CO., W. H. HESQUIA, D. H. THILSON & CO., BAKER'S COMPAGNIE, AND NAVAL CONTRACTORS, KOBE (HIOGO), JAPAN.

6m 120 Hongkong, 17th January, 1872.

NOTICE.

HOTEL D'EUROPE.

If the LUGGAGE deposited at the above Hotel by Mr. Holmes GRANGER is not claimed in seven days from this date, the same will be sold by public auction to defray expenses.

73 1/2 Hongkong, 17th January, 1872.

L. N. BROWN & CO. have been appointed SOLE AGENTS for the Sale of B.O.K.R.'S. B.I.T.E.R.S. in China—and purchasers are warned to beware of spurious imitations.

53 1/2 Hongkong, 6th January, 1872.

THE undersigned have mutually entered into a partnership as House and Land Agents, Receivers, and Collectors of Debts, &c., under the firm of BARRINGTON & ALLEN. Discrepancies before the public in Belgium, while condoning these manifestations, attributes the comparative moderation of the people to the liberty which they enjoy, and which they are anxious not to compromise. Had similar disorders occurred in some countries the military would have been called out to suppress them, and there would have been bloodshed. In Belgium, the military were not appealed to, but the police were often relieved by their superior force of zeal. Certain foreign papers may call Belgium, but the *Independence* maintains that she has "order and liberty, order by liberty, while elsewhere order is sought for without liberty, and often neither are obtained."

In the German Parliament, yesterday, the Bill for preventing the abuse of the pulpit by the clergy passed its third reading by a large majority.

(Standard.)

After three months of the mortal torments of suspense, Rossell, Ferre, and a private soldier named Bourgeois, were aroused from their slumbers yesterday morning and informed that they had only an hour to live. At six o'clock they were placed in three ambulances and driven to the plateau of Satory, where all being

in readiness they were placed with their backs to the wall, and their heads towards the executioner, and Rossell dropped down quite dead. Ferre again round and still followed, but Bourgeois had a protracted struggle, which terminated by the administration of a coup-de-grace. All three received the fatal announcement with great calmness, and died with firmness.

Our Berlin correspondent telegraphs that the Emperor of Germany is unwell, and that there was a dispute on account of his health.

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Meanwhile the news

Extracts.

Life Among the Gauchos.
No traveller has more thoroughly comprehended or more admirably described the Gauchos than Sir Francis Head, and no one who has read his "Ride across the Pampas" can avoid feeling how life-like and vivid are his word-sketches of the strange, unthought dwellers on those vast plains. Of the Pampas themselves his accounts are most alluring. Who would not wish to exchange rail and steam for swift gallops over springy turf, gallops which begin at early dawn and go on until 120 miles of country have been left behind, and the rider could eat his own horse, may his own saddle, for very hunger! Let us hope, however, he is not often driven to so indecisive a meal; nothing worse probably than beef awaits the ravenous horseman-beef to be washed down by a drink of pure water, and then six or eight hours sleep on the ground outside a Gaucha level with a saddle as a pillow. It is no wonder that Sir Francis Head found this life something galling at first, though he afterwards declares that he got into such splendid condition that he felt if no exertion could kill him, and that he could tire ten or twelve horses in a day. He found when he began these long riding journeys, which we must mention, were undertaken for business not pleasure, that the constant galloping confused his head, and that at the end of a hard day's work he could scarcely speak or stand; but by degrees the rider became accustomed to the motion, and found it the most delightful in the whole world. The life too is so alluring, from Sir Francis's description, with its boundless variety; now sweeping over green loveliness, where a sharp look out must be kept for Indians or for bisseros, now riding swiftly among the tall slim stems of a vast wood. There is none of the undergrowth or jungle in the region of trees which grow on the Pampas similar to that met with in other semi-tropical forests, for Sir Francis particularly remarks that the trees are not crowded, and that they never obstruct the traveller's manœuvres. The only shadow on the sunny delightful picture is cast by the poor horses, and we cannot help shuddering to read of the suffering endured by the wild, beautiful creatures. Taken from the plains over which they have hitherto roamed, hurriedly and cruelly caught what bit and bridle can, they are spurred till they drop; their bleeding sides declare the sharpness of the Gauchos' long silver spurs; and though they do not go fast, still they are witnesses to the truth of the sporting phrase, "It is the pace which kills." We read of horses who have been urged at such furious speed all day (for, even if not mounted, they gallop loose with the spare animals), and put into a yard at night, galloped sixty miles next day, turned out to graze among stones and rocks for a few hours, brought at nightfall into a bare dusty yard, ridden for sixty or seventy miles the third day, again put up without shelter, and not turned out on the plain until the following morning. Sir Francis says:—"In riding across the Pampas with constant succession of Gauchos, I often observed that the children and the old men rode quicker than the young men. The children have no judgment, but they are so light, and always in such spirits, that they skin over the ground very quickly. The old gray-headed Gauchos are excellent horsemen with great judgment; and although his pace is not so rapid as the children's, yet, from being constant and uniform, he arrives at his goal nearly in the same time. In riding with the young men I found that the pace was unavoidably influenced by the subject on which we happened to converse, and when we got to the post, I constantly observed that, somehow or other, time had been lost.—*Traveling About.*

Charles Dickens.
(Daily News.)

The publication of Mr. Forster's "first volume" will almost prove as great a surprise to the world as the first appearance of the first story which won fame for the subject of the biography. No one ever doubted that Mr. Dickens drew from actual observation and experience many of the characters and scenes of his novels. But no one suspected that he had actually lived through so many of the most painful experiences which moistened the eyes of those who reading them in the pages of fiction, believed them to be only the imaginary sufferings of a novelist's hero. We now learn for the first time as a certainty that Dickens actually knew the very depths of poverty. It was he, and not David Copperfield, who sorted the bottles, and was half-starved and shabby, and ashamed of himself for the company which he found himself compelled to keep. It was he who wandered through London streets a poor little social outcast. In all the history of literature and of literary training there is nothing more touching, more interesting, and more instructive. Other literary men, of course, were as poor as he. Jean Paul Richter pinched by actual hunger; Johnson in rage and want, and his inimitable pride; Savage lying down to sleep on the warm ashes of the parlour; Crabbe pausing Westminster-bridge all night; De Quincey fainting on the cold bosom of his stony-hearted stepmother, Oxford-street;—and many other kindred instances will at once come to the aid of any one who desires to enforce again the old theory that poverty is the nurse of genius. But in none of these cases, in no other instance that we can call to mind, is the permanent and all-pervading influence of poverty. In Baden they had more liberal laws than Prussia, yet they would gladly accept a common Federal legislation, even at the risk of some of their advantages in this respect. Now, for the first time we seem to have learned the secret of the individuality belonging to all of Dickens's really great novels. The episodes of poverty, or even the long years of want, which were part of the lives of other literary men, were but incidents, passing in their career, hardly affecting the bent of their genius more than the most coincidental occurrence might have done; or else they affected it in an evil sense, making the man cynical like Savage, or mercenary and egotistic like De Quincey. But the effect of the exaggerated care which surrounded the childhood of Montaigne with luxury, which wakened him in the morning with music, and made his early life a soft holiday, is not more evident in his easy, pleasant, happy-valley meditations, than is the school of that episode of *Londons* poverty visible in the best writings of Dickens. It would hardly be too much to say that in that period Dickens accumulated his whole stock of material, his entire outfit for his career of fortune and of fame. It was the intensely healthy and manly moral nature of the boy, contrasting so much at times with his physical condition, that kept him from sinking into cynicism and despondency, as it kept him from plunging individually into recklessness and debasement. Without hard experience he might have been a great author, he might have been a writer who holds a peculiar place in literature, and whom the world loves even perhaps more than admires.

The wonderful retentiveness of memory which Dickens possessed served him well in this early experience. He speaks of remem-bering distinely the appearance of places which he saw when he was two years old—an example of auto-recollection recollection, only surpassed, as well as we can recollect, in the biography of literature, by Jean Paul's account of his own earliest remembrance. During that terrible interval of drudgery, poverty, and isolation, every scene, person, and incident stamped itself apparently with an ineffaceable vividness on the observation of the weakly, lonely boy. Mr. Forster well observes that Dickens's account of his sufferings, even wherewithal it is most filled with joyful memories abundantly proves that he never lost his gift of animal spirits, or his native capacity for humorous enjoyment. The peculiarly objective character of his genius compelled him, even then, to regard his surroundings as if they were not part of himself. He appreciated their humour, their oddities, their grotesque contrasts. He made pictures in little of them, and carried them about with him ready for use of some future time. As Hogarth in a crowd would make a little sketch of some odd person or group on his thumb nail, and afterwards fit his leisure transfer it to paper, proportion, and consign it thus to immortality, so Dickens in his boyish memory, which they were before, for they now deal with the majority of German law in the same way as that of a small portion of the inconveniences of having different laws in different parts of the same country is well illustrated in Prussia, which has not only provincial laws, but a distinct law of succession applicable to Berlin only, and entirely different from that of all the rest of Germany. The Fatherland already has a united army and commerce; it now remains to give it a united system of law." After this speech the House divided, and the motion was carried by a large majority.—*Paul Mill Gazette.*

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